

renominated eight highly qualified appellate court nominees for vacancies that are considered by the U.S. Judicial Conference to be judicial emergencies.

They are Roger Gregory of Virginia, nominated to fill a vacancy on the United States Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit; Judge James Wynn of North Carolina, nominated for the fourth circuit; Enrique Moreno of Texas, nominated for the fifth circuit; Judge Helene White of Michigan, nominated for the sixth circuit—the longest waiting nominee; Kathleen McCree Lewis of Michigan, nominated for the sixth circuit; Bonnie Campbell of Iowa, nominated for the eighth circuit; Barry Goode of California, nominated for the ninth circuit; and James Duffy of Hawaii, nominated for the ninth circuit. Together, these nominees have waited a total of 4,757 days for Senate action—that's more than 13 years combined. Only one of them has even received a hearing. And two—the nominees from Hawaii and North Carolina—are from States with no current representation on the appellate court, even though under Federal law every State should have such representation.

It is my sincere hope that we can work with the Senate in a bipartisan spirit to get these nominees confirmed. The qualifications of these nominees are not in question. All of them are highly rated and respected. They also represent the kind of diversity that we all know enhances fairness and confidence in our courts.

In a nation that prides itself in the fair and expeditious rule of law, the people have a right to expect that judicial emergencies are treated with the urgency they demand. So, I urge the new Senate to give these nominees the simple up or down vote they deserve without further delay.

**Message to the Senate Transmitting
the Convention on the Safety of
United Nations and Associated
Personnel With Documentation**

January 3, 2001

To the Senate of the United States:

I transmit herewith, with a view to receiving the advice and consent of the Senate to

ratification, subject to an understanding and a reservation, the Convention on the Safety of United Nations and Associated Personnel adopted by the United Nations General Assembly by consensus on December 9, 1994, and signed on behalf of the United States of America on December 19, 1994. The report of the Department of State with respect to the Convention is also transmitted for the information of the Senate.

Military peacekeepers, civilian police, and others associated with United Nations operations are often subject to attack by persons who perceive political benefits from directing violence against United Nations operations. The world has witnessed a serious escalation of such attacks, resulting in numerous deaths and casualties. This Convention is designed to provide a measure of deterrence against these attacks, by creating a regime of universal criminal jurisdiction for offenses of this type. Specifically, the Convention creates a legal mechanism that requires submission for prosecution or extradition of persons alleged to have committed attacks and other offenses listed under the Convention against United Nations and associated personnel.

This Convention provides a direct benefit to United States Armed Forces and to U.S. civilians participating in peacekeeping activities by including within its coverage a number of types of operations pursuant to United Nations mandates in which the United States and U.S. military and civilians have participated in the past. If the United States were to participate in operations under similar conditions in the future, its forces and civilians would receive the benefits created by this instrument. The Convention covers not only forces under U.N. command, but associated forces under national command or multinational forces present pursuant to a United Nations mandate. In situations such as we have seen in Somalia, the former Yugoslavia, and Haiti, certain attacks on these associated forces would now be recognized as criminal acts, subjecting the attackers to prosecution in or extradition by any State that is a party to the Convention. As a result, the international community has taken a significant practical step to redress these incidents. In doing so, we recognize the fact that attacks

on peacekeepers who represent the international community are violations of law and cannot be condoned.

By creating obligations and procedures that increase the likelihood of prosecution of those who attack peacekeeping personnel, this Convention fulfills an important objective under my Directive for Reforming Multilateral Peace Operations of May 1994, which directs that the United States seek additional legal protections for United States peacekeeping personnel.

The recommended legislation, necessary to implement the Convention, will be submitted to the Congress separately.

I recommend that the Senate give early and favorable consideration to this Convention subject to the understanding and reservation that are described in the accompanying report of the Department of State, and give its advice and consent to ratification.

William J. Clinton

The White House,
January 3, 2001.

NOTE: An original was not available for verification of the content of this message.

Remarks at a Swearing-In Reception Honoring Senator Hillary Clinton

January 3, 2001

Thank you. First of all, Senator Schumer has got to go to New York, and one of the things that I did not completely solve as President was the minor congestion we sometimes have at our airports. *[Laughter]* So let's give Senator Schumer a big hand, because he's got to go. *[Applause]* Thank you.

Well, I want to thank Walter and Thelma and Cathy. Thank you, all of you who worked on this wonderful party for Hillary tonight. I want to thank the people of New York for being so good to my wife and to me and Al Gore for 8 years.

This is a special day for Hillary's mother and her brothers and my family, but especially for Chelsea and me. We were in the Senate gallery today at noon, Chelsea and I were, holding hands, trying to keep from laughing out loud and embarrassing Senator

Clinton. *[Laughter]* I resisted all temptation. I didn't take one of those little Kodak cameras in there. *[Laughter]* I did everything I could to avoid spoiling what was, for me, one of the truly wonderful moments in my life and our family's life. So, for all of you who helped Hillary over this last almost year and a half, I want you to know I am profoundly grateful to you.

You also have taken a huge load off my mind. *[Laughter]* Because, you know, for 30 years, I've been guilt-ridden that I, when Hillary came to Arkansas and married me, that I kept her out of a career in politics that she should have had. So I don't have to feel bad about it anymore. *[Laughter]* And I really thank all of you for doing that. I say it laughingly, but I'm dead serious about it. I have always felt that Hillary had the best combination of mind and heart and passion and strength about the issues that we have always cared about than anyone I ever knew.

And I also believe that the American people understand now that there really is a connection between the ideas you have and the level of commitment you have to implementing them, and what happens out there in the country. And if you have any doubt, you're about to find out. *[Laughter]* Because—*[applause]*—wait a minute—I say that in all seriousness. There were, in this election, which was so closely fought out in so many places, there are real differences between the way we view the world. And they are honest and heartfelt. But at least our ideas have been tested for 8 years, and most of them have worked pretty well.

Quite apart from the enormous personal pride I have in Hillary, and the enormous gratitude I feel and the incredible—just sheer happiness that we all felt today, I am gratified to know that when my term of service as President ends, there will be one more magnificent voice sticking up for the folks that are too often forgotten and the causes that have too often been left behind.

I'll leave you with this thought. Public service, like a political campaign, is a team sport. It's not like tennis; it's not something you play by yourself. It's a team sport. And even if you get to be quarterback, no matter how good you are, you'll lose if you don't have a good team. I have been blessed to